

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

POLICY / PROCEDURE



SUBJECT: USE OF RESTRAINTS IN AMBULANCES AND VANS	POLICY NO. 202.24	EFFECTIVE DATE 01/01/02	PAGE 1 of 2
APPROVED BY: Original Signed by: MARVIN J. SOUTHARD Director	SUPERSEDES 102.24	ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE N/A	DISTRIBUTION LEVEL(S) 1

PURPOSE: 1.1 To establish Departmental practices for the safe and appropriate use of physical restraint in ambulances and vans when transporting mental health clients.

DEFINITION: 2.1 Restraint

2.1.1 Physical Restraint is any manual method or physical or mechanical device, material or equipment attached or adjacent to the individual's body that he/she cannot easily remove that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to one's body.

2.1.1.1 All ambulances and vans contracting with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) shall be equipped with appropriate well-maintained devices for safely restraining a person's body and Individual.

2.1.1.2 Only properly equipped vehicles shall be used to transport patients requiring restraints.

POLICY: 3.1 Restraints shall be used only during transport when **ALL** of the following conditions have been met:

3.1.1 The patient exhibits behavior that threatens the safety of the patient and others;

3.1.1.1 Involuntary status, by itself, does not justify the use of restraints.

3.1.2 No less restrictive alternative has been found to effectively protect the patient or others from harm as a result of the patient's behavior, as part of standard transport safety precautions, or as part of a valid order by a qualified DMH professional.

3.1.3 A written order for restraint use is obtained by DMH clinic staff from a qualified independent practitioner.

3.1.3.1 A qualified professional is either of the following:

- a physician
- a licensed clinical psychologist

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3.1.3.2 Written orders shall be documented on forms approved for that purpose, and a copy shall remain in the DMH patient file (Attachment I).

PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 Transportation staff are responsible for the patient's safety during transport.
 - 4.1.1 The patient shall not be transported in a prone (face down) position.
 - 4.1.2 Restraints shall be applied in ways that do not compromise the patient's circulatory and respiratory systems.
 - 4.1.3 Patients should be observed continuously.
 - 4.1.4 Restrained extremities should be evaluated for pulse quality, capillary refill and color every fifteen (15) minutes.
- 4.2 Only properly equipped vehicles shall be used to transport individuals requiring restraints.
- 5.1 The patient shall remain in restraints for the duration of the transport or until one of the following conditions is met:
 - 5.1.1 The restraint is discontinued by order of a qualified independent practitioner as defined in 3.1.3.1; or
 - 5.1.2 Transportation personnel determine the restraint poses a threat to the patient's physical well-being or safety in emergencies such as fires, traffic accidents, etc.

ATTACHMENT

Transportation Restraint Order

REVIEW DATE:

This policy shall be reviewed on or before December 1, 2004

TRANSPORTATION RESTRAINT ORDER

Date:

Time into transportation restraints:

Type of restraint::

____ Belted to Gurney

____ 4-point to Gurney

____ 2-point Walking

____ Other: _____

Justification:

____ Aggressive towards others ____ At risk for self injury due to disorientation

____ Deliberately attempts to injure self ____ At risk for self injury by elopement

____ Other: _____

Brief description of behaviors that put patient at risk:

Transportation staff are responsible for the patient's safety during transport:

- Patients should be observed continuously.
- Restrained extremities should be evaluated every fifteen (15) minutes for pulse quality, capillary refill, and color.

The patient shall remain in restraints for the duration of the transport unless:

- The restraint is discontinued by order of a physician or licensed clinical psychologist
- Transportation personnel determine the restraint poses a threat to the patient's physical well-being or safety in emergencies such as fires, traffic accidents, etc.

Restraint ordered by: _____

Signature

Physician

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Printed Name

Restraint applied by: _____

Signature

Ambulance personnel

DMH personnel

Printed Name